These local horse farms have free manure that they would like to share with their "horseless" neighbors. Some may have other livestock manures free or for sale. Contact individuals or farms for information regarding the condition of their manure, pickup details, and driving directions.

## BEFORE YOU HEAD OFF WITH YOUR PICK-UP, PLEASE UNDERSTAND:

Many horse farms do not have the time and/or equipment to fully compost the stall waste (horse manure and wood shavings/bedding). After about six months manure will naturally heap compost on its' own. You may want to check with multiple farms in your area to find a farm that has older manure available or you may need to finish the composting process once you get it home by keeping the material moist and aerating it by turning the compost pile.

Completing the composting process is important because as the pile heats up it will destroy any weed seeds. When the compost looks like black soil it is ready to be used in your garden or landscape. For more information contact the Virginia Cooperative Extension Loudoun County Master Gardener Volunteer Help Desk at 703-771-5150; ex107mg@vt.edu, or stop by the Extension Office at 30-B Catoctin Circle, SE (Wachovia Bank Building), Leesburg.

# COMPOSTING AND COMPOST BENEFITS

Composting is a natural degradation process brought about by bacterial and fungal organisms. Large amounts of organic matter can be reduced in a relatively short time to a pile of black, crumbly humus with a little effort. Maintaining the proper moisture level and turning to incorporate oxygen into the manure/bedding mix will produce finished compost that gardeners often call "Black Gold". Adding compost to the soil regularly brings improvement. The soil's structure will improve, since humus contains substances which cause aggregation (sticking together) of soil particles. In clay soil this means that the microscopic individual clay particles will be clumped together and more air spaces will be opened up between those clumps. Compost contains humic and other organic acids which help to degrade compounds naturally present in the soil into a simpler form that plants use.

For more information on composting and composting structures go to Virginia
Cooperative Extension publication 426-325 online at

http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/envirohort/426-325/426-325.html.

#### www.ext.vt.edu

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Virginia Cooperative Extension

# Loudoun Manure Exchange



A list of local Loudoun County and nearby horse farms with FREE horse and other animal manures.

Knowledge for the Common Wealth





### Free Manure -Locations by area...

#### **Aldie**

Norma Bailey 703-327-6437

#### **Great Falls**

Pam Sbarra 703-759-4962



#### Leesburg

Cindy Annino 703-737-7808

Steffanie Burgevin 800-888-3803

Lee Lyn Farm
David & Cynthia Crooks 703-669-5096

Ann Gallus 703-771-4911

Black Sheep Farm
Martha Polkey 703-777-7640

#### Lovettsville

| Bart Hodgson              | 540-822-5010          |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Jeanette Nelson           | 540-822-4226          |
| Amanda Smith              | 703-727-81 <i>5</i> 9 |
| Janet & Dick Vandervaarrt | 703-307-6520          |
| Dawn Rosenthal            | 540-822-5813          |

### Middleburg

Marilyn C. Galvin 540-687-6334 Chilton Farm Marc Leepson 540-687-4131

"Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments."

#### **Paeonian Springs**

Pat Kalitka 540-882-3009

#### **Round Hill**

Mike & Stephanie Jennings 540-668-6708

### Other Free Organic Material

#### **Wood Mulch**

Loudoun County Landfill 703-771-5500 20939 Evergreen Mill Road Mon-Sat, 8-4

Town of Leesburg 703-771-2795 Bob Lilly

Call for location & availability

This brochure was adapted by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Loudoun County Office from the brochure, <u>Gardener's Gold</u>, originally developed by the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District. The purpose is to connect home gardeners with local farmers who have horse and other animal manure that can be composted for use in gardens and landscapes. Through this connection both home gardeners and farmers benefit. If you would like to have your farm added to this list, please contact Debbie Dillion at:

Loudoun County Cooperative Extension 30-B Catoctin Circle, SE Leesburg, VA 20175 703-771-5838 ddillion@vt.edu